

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 01196 171139Z

54

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-06

ARA-06 /069 W

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R 171055Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4543

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 1196

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, NP

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN AND THE "CUBAN GURKHAS"

REF: TELLEEN-CARGO LETTER MARCH 1

1. LOCAL PRESS (RISING NEPAL) HAS PICKED UP AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S COMMENT, SUBSEQUENTLY USED BY TIME MAGAZINE, ON "RUSSIA'S CUBAN GURKHAS" IN ANGOLA. IN LETTER TO EDITOR OF RISING NEPAL PUBLISHED MARCH 17 ONE READER ASSERTED THAT "THIS SIMPLISTIC REFERENCE TO GURKHAS DEMONSTRATES THE LIMITS OF MOYNIHAN'S KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE WORLD'S GREATEST FIGHTING FORCE. BESIDES, "WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE GURKHAS, WHO HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PART OF A REGULAR ARMY, AND THE FORCES OF THOSE COUNTRIES THAT VET INVOLVED IN FOREIGN WARS?"

2. EDITOR OF RISING NEPAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE WOULD CARRY "TWO OR THREE" LETTERS ON THIS SUBJECT WHICH, HE CLAIMS, GENERATED CONSIDERABLE COMMENT FROM READERS. HE ASSURED EMBOFF, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD NOT ESCALATE INTO GENERAL CAMPAIGN. FOREIGN SECRETARY BHATT INFORMALLY RAISED QUESTION OF TIME ARTICLE WITH AMBASSADOR EARLIER. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT IF HMG SO WISHED THEY COULD

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OF COURSE TAKE THIS MATTER UP WITH TIME, INC.

OTHER MFA OFFICIALS HAVE CRITICIZED ANALOGY
USED BY AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN, BUT HAVE ALSO DONE SO
INFORMALLY AND WITHOUT RANCOUR. WE EXPECT ISSUE
WILL DIE A NATURAL DEATH.
CARGO

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NNN

Message Attributes

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